

## Project Overview

*The U.S. 69 Corridor is one of the state’s busiest highways with heavy congestion peaking during rush hours and at other times.*

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), along with the Kansas Turnpike Authority (KTA) and the City of Overland Park, are conducting an in-depth study of how best to improve public safety, reduce congestion and increase travel time predictability along U.S. 69.

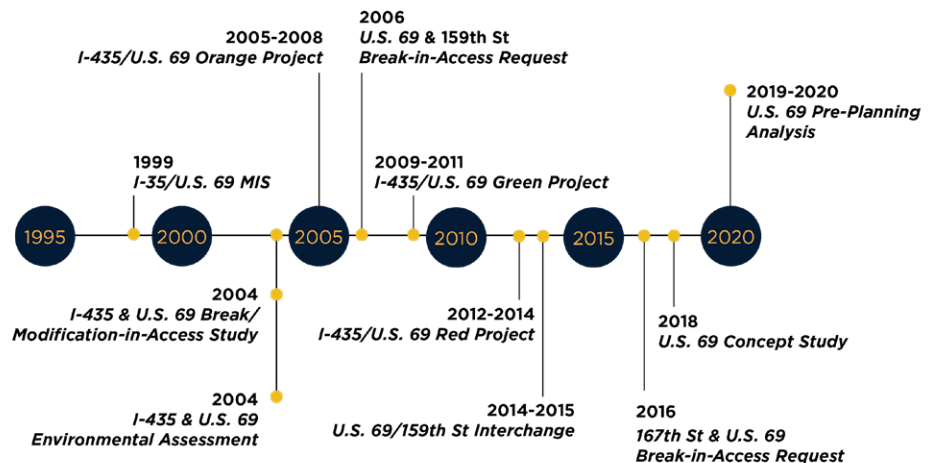
The U.S. 69 Corridor Modernization and Expansion Project - also known as 69Express - will determine how best to widen U.S. 69 to six lanes (three lanes in each direction) and modify interchanges that connect U.S. 69 to the local street network. One aspect being examined is whether tolling the new lane (also called an express toll lane) provides additional long-term safety, traffic flow and trip time reliability benefits. The existing “free lanes” will remain free. The Project also includes an Environmental Assessment and preliminary engineering necessary to move improvements closer to construction.

## Project Background

Studies have been conducted on U.S. 69 since 1995 and have led to improvements on I-435 and U.S. 69 and projects such as the development of a new interchange at 159th Street.

## Project Area

The portion of U.S. 69 under study runs from just south of 179th Street to just north of 103rd Street in Overland Park, Kansas. The Project focuses on examining potential improvements on U.S. 69 and at the interchanges that connect U.S. 69 to the local street network. To understand area influences on the transportation network, the Study Area extends beyond project boundaries in both directions.



Most recently, a Concept Study conducted between 2016-2018 looked at:

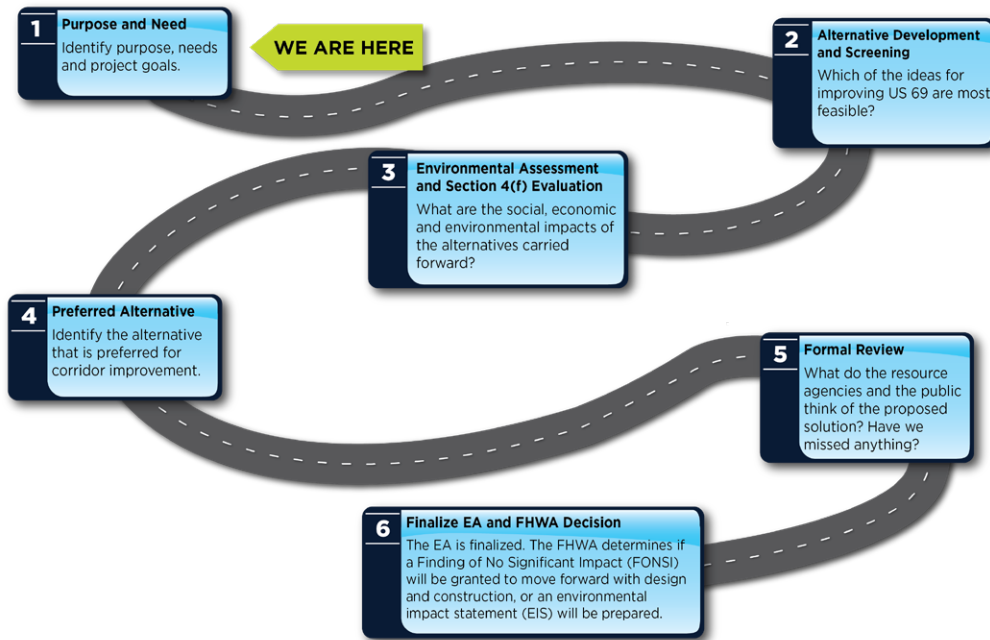
- How have issues in the corridor evolved over time?
- What could potential improvements look like and what are their costs?
- How should improvements be prioritized?

These studies have led KDOT to the current 69Express Project.

## Environmental Assessment Process

The Project Team is currently conducting an Environmental Assessment, or EA, which evaluates the impacts that proposed improvements will have on the natural and man-made environment. This graphic outlines the steps of the EA process. The Project Team is currently in Step 1 to identify the Purpose and Need, which is outlined below.

The environmental process began in October 2020 and is expected to be completed by late 2021. The public will be informed of progress and the status of the Project at key milestones. This will also provide the opportunity for the public to provide input.



## Purpose and Need

The proposed Project is needed to modernize and expand U.S. 69 between 103rd Street and 179th Street in Overland Park, Kansas. Previous studies in the area have found the corridor has become insufficient to meet current and future mobility needs, resulting in worsening safety, reliability and congestion. There is also a need to address the corridor's issues with transportation improvements that offer long-term sustainability and flexibility for all users.



**Improve safety** to address crash frequency and congestion related crashes within the corridor;

**Reduce congestion** and improve traffic operations to meet existing and future travel demands;

**Promote sustainability** by addressing infrastructure condition and ongoing operations and maintenance needs, supporting environmental stewardship, as well as improving long-term traveler reliability;

**Provide flexible choices** by promoting a transportation system that accommodates the needs for all users and modes; and

**Support local and regional growth** through coordinated transportation improvements consistent with planned and proposed community land use.

Visit [www.69Express.org](http://www.69Express.org) to provide input on the Purpose and Need as outlined above.

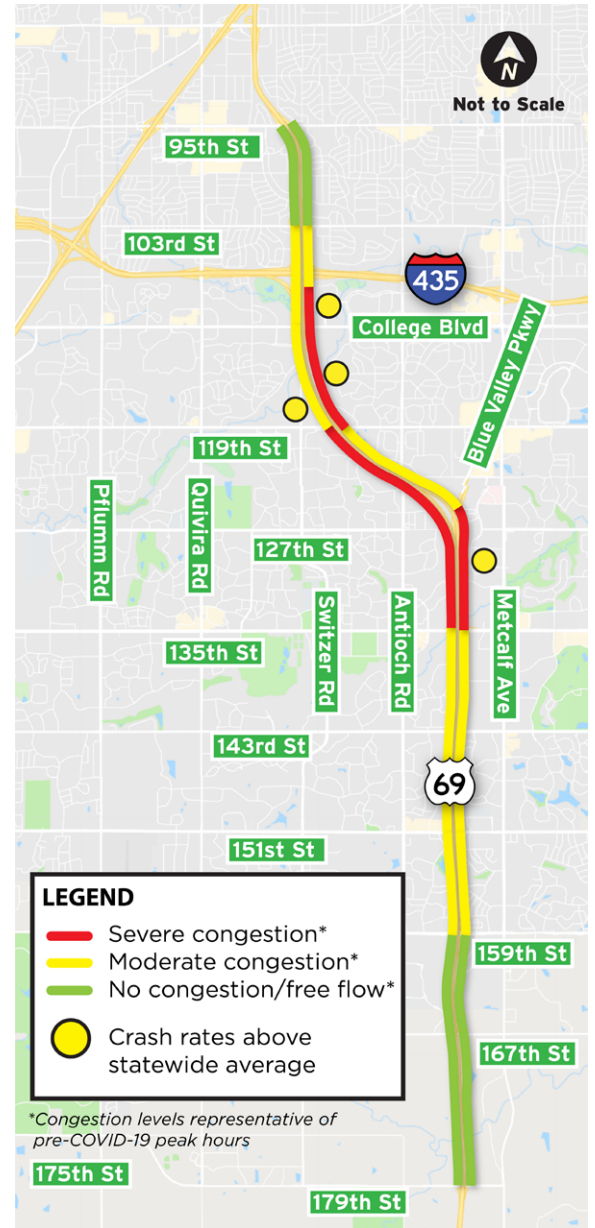
## Traffic and Safety

Traffic-related issues have been identified along U.S. 69 in a series of studies and related projects conducted over the last 25 years. During that time, commuters and travelers have become increasingly frustrated with higher accident rates, growing congestion and increasing travel times. The problem is only expected to increase. As development continues, traffic volume is projected to double and travel times are projected to triple by 2040. Not surprisingly, U.S. 69 improvements were identified as the metropolitan area's most important priority during Local Consult meetings held across the State of Kansas in 2019.

Traffic crashes also cause congestion, resulting in increased fuel consumption and lost time. Improvements along the Study Corridor are intended to help reduce crash frequency and severity.

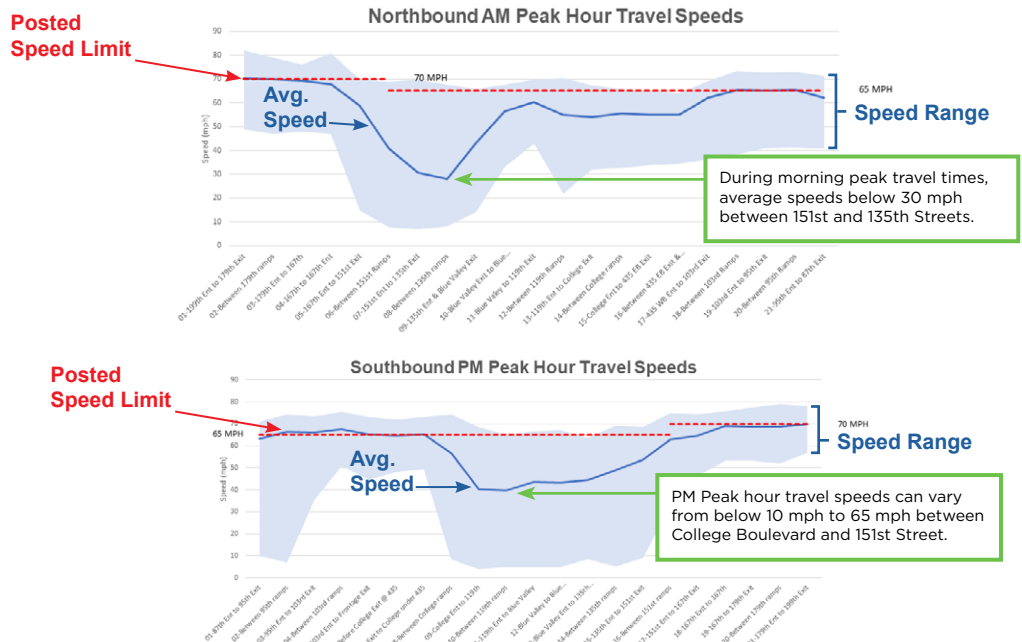
The safety analysis found that:

- Crash rates are above the statewide average for similar roadways.
- Crash frequencies are approximately one crash every day.



## Unpredictable Travel

Existing travel speeds are unpredictable during peak hours. The images to the right show where bottlenecks happen and speeds drop well below the posted speed limit.



## Engagement Opportunities

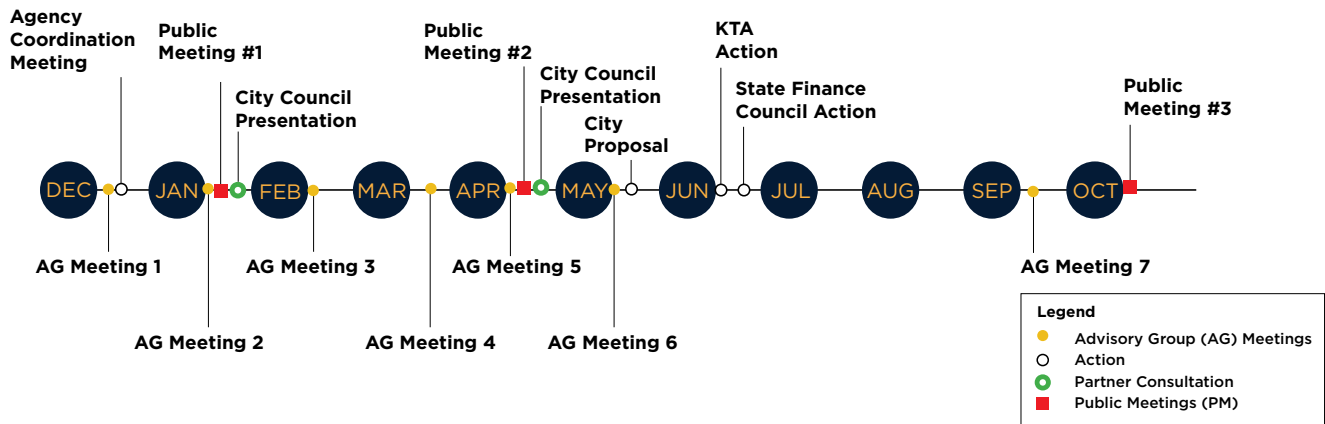
The Study, expected to conclude in 2021, will involve extensive public outreach with residents, businesses, travelers and others.

This timeline is a tentative schedule that identifies key milestones throughout the Study, including the Public Meetings in the spring and fall of 2021.

In addition to public meetings, tools such as the Project website, social media, online surveys and presentations (in-person and/or virtual), and newsletters will engage the public in a comprehensive community discussion about how best to address congestion and safety on U.S. 69.

Email us if you have interest in our team making a presentation to your organization:

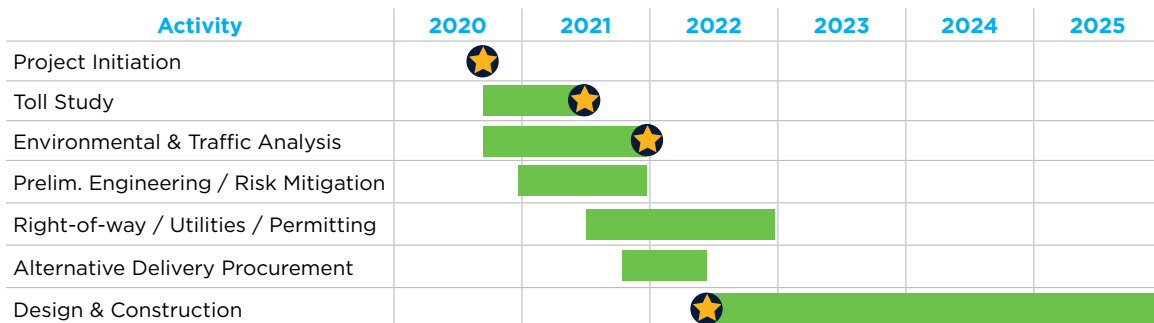
[info@69express.org](mailto:info@69express.org).



## Proposed Project Schedule

If Overland Park determines that express toll lanes are the desired option for generating its local contribution, construction could begin as early as the summer of 2022. If express toll lanes are not the desired solution for generating the City's local contribution, the Project will pause development while new strategies are considered to:

- Contribute the City's local contribution from some other revenue source;
- Reduce the scope of the Project to align with available state dollars; or
- Delay the Project until a combination of state and local funding sources are available.



### Contacts:

To learn more about the Project and sign up for email updates, please visit [www.69Express.org](http://www.69Express.org).

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